5. From theſe three things, the extreme ſubtilty of the electrical matter, the mutual repulſion of its parts, and the ſtrong attraction between them and other matter, ariſe this effect, that when a quantity of electrical matter, is applied to a maſs of common matter, of any bigneſs or length within our obſervation (which has not already got its quantity) it is immediately and equally diffuſed through the whole.

6. Thus common matter is a kind of ſpunge to the electrical fluid. And as a ſpunge would receive no water, if the parts of water were not ſmaller than the pores of the ſpunge; and even then but ſlowly, if there were not a mutual attraction between thoſe parts and the parts of the ſpunge; and would ſtill imbibe it faſter, if the mutual attraction among the parts of the water did not impede, ſome force being required to ſeparate them; and faſteſt, if, inſtead of attraction, there were a mutual repulſion among thoſe parts, which would act in conjunction with the attraction of the ſpunge. So is the caſe between the electrical and common matter.

7. But in common matter there is (generally) as much of the electrical, as it will contain within its ſubſtance. If more is added, it lies without upon the ſurface, and forms what we call an electrical atmoſphere: and then the body is ſaid to be electrified.

8. 'Tis ſuppoſed, that all kinds of common matter do not attract and retain the electrical, with equal ſtrength and force; for reaſons to be given hereafter. And that thoſe called electrics *per ſe*, as glaſs, &c. attract and retain it ſtrongeſt, and contain the greateſt quantity.

9. We know that the electrical fluid is *in* common matter, becauſe we can pump it *out* by the globe or tube. We know that common matter has near as much as it can contain, becauſe, when we add a little more to any proportion of it, the additional quantity does not enter, but forms an electrical atmoſphere. And we know that common matter has not (generally) more than it can contain, otherwiſe all looſe portions of it would repel each other, as they conſtantly do when they have electric atmoſpheres.

10. The beneficial uſes of this electrical fluid in the creation, we are not yet well acquainted with, though doubtleſs ſuch there are, and thoſe very conſiderable; but we may ſee ſome pernicious conſequences, that would attend a much greater proportion of it. For had this globe we live on as much of it in proportion, as we can give to a globe of iron, wood, or the like, the particles of duſt and other light matters that get looſe from it, would, by virtue of their ſeparate electrical atmoſpheres, not only repel each other, but be repelled from the earth, and not eaſily be brought to unite with it again; whence our air would continually be more and more clogged with foreign matter, and grow unfit for reſpiration. This affords another occaſion of adoring that wiſdom which has made all things by weight and meaſure!

11. If a piece of common matter be ſuppoſed intirely free from electrical matter, and a ſingle particle of the latter